

8 – Glossary

Acre: A measure of land that occupies 43,560 square feet; (about 207 feet X 207 feet.) There are 640 acres in a square mile.

Area Regulation: An indirect method of roughly determining the amount of forest product to be annually or periodically harvested, on the basis of the total stocked area.

Barrens: Land with poor soil and very few shrubs or trees.

Biodiversity: The spectrum of life forms and the ecological processes that support and sustain them. Biological diversity occurs at four interacting levels: genetic, species, community, and ecosystem. The variety of living organisms considered at all levels of organization, from genetics through species, to higher taxonomic levels, also; the term encompasses the variety of habitats and ecosystems supporting the organisms, as well as the processes occurring within those systems.

Carbon Sequestration: A term describing processes that remove carbon from the atmosphere. This can occur through a variety of means to artificially capture and store carbon, as well as enhancing natural sequestration processes in forests and oceans. These actions are intended to help mitigate global warming.

Cervid: An animal of the *cervidae* family, which in Michigan includes white-tailed deer, elk, and moose.

Community: An assemblage of species living together in a particular area, at a particular time, in a prescribed habitat. Communities usually bear the name of their dominant plant species, but include all the microbes, plants, and animals living in association with the dominant plant species at a given time. A grouping of organisms which exist in the same general place and have mutual interactions.

Compartment: Blocks of state forestland that range from 1500 to 3000 acres in size. The size of a compartment is designed to facilitate systematic examination and treatment on a regular basis.

Conserve, Conserving and Conservation: **1.** Management of renewable natural resource with the objective of sustaining its productivity in perpetuity while providing for human use compatible with the sustainability of the resource; **2.** The process and measures for restoring natural biological diversity through management efforts, in order to protect, restore, and enhance as much of the variety of native plant and animal species and communities as possible in quantities and distributions that provide for the continued existence and normal functioning of native species and communities, including the viability of populations throughout the natural geographic distributions of native species and communities.

DBH: Diameter at breast height (4½ feet) which is the standard height for measuring tree diameter.

Desired Future Condition: A statement that provides a broad vision for the future state of the forest.

Ecological Reference Areas (ERAs): Areas that serve as models of ecological reference within the state and may be located on any forest land ownership. They are high quality examples of functioning ecosystems that are primarily influenced by natural ecological processes. ERAs are defined as areas that have a natural community classification Global or State Rank of G1, G2, G3, S1, S2, S3 and an Element Occurrence (EO) Rank A or B.¹ The initial set of ERAs is based on MNFI's current list of known high quality natural community sites (See Conservation Area Management Guidance). Additional ERAs will be identified through the Biodiversity Conservation planning process.

Ecology: The study of the linkages of organisms or groups of organisms and their environment, both biotic and abiotic.

Ecosystem: A dynamic and natural complex of living organisms interacting with each other and with their associated nonliving elements in the environment.

Ecosystem Diversity: The distinctive assemblages of species and ecological processes that occur in different physical settings of the biosphere.

Ecosystem management: A process that integrates physical, chemical, biological, and ecological principles, along with economic and social factors, into a comprehensive strategy aimed at protecting and enhancing sustainability, diversity, and productivity of a system.

Ecoregion: Areas of relatively homogeneous ecological systems. Ecoregions are usually based on patterns of land use, topography, present and potential natural vegetation and soils. Ecoregion designations are used by resource managers to develop logical, regional strategies for land acquisition and management.

Eco-unit: Geographic areas containing similar ecological patterns and processes whose boundaries closely align with Michigan's Eco-Regions. They were established by the DNR for organizing and administering assessment, planning, facilitating, and updating of regional ecosystem management activities. Four eco-units were established: Western Upper Peninsula, Eastern Upper Peninsula, Northern Lower Peninsula, and Southern Lower Peninsula. These four eco-units apply to all Divisions. Representatives from each division will contribute to regional ecosystem planning, assessment, and monitoring at the eco-unit level.

Eco-Unit Team: A team of DNR employees composed primarily of Management Unit Supervisors from each division along with additional support personnel who are mandated to plan and coordinate management of an eco-unit utilizing ecosystem management principles.

Edaphic: Related to or caused by particular soil conditions.

Endemic: Indigenous to (native) or characteristic of a particular restricted geographical area.

¹ Natural Community Rank and Element Occurrence in Michigan are determined by Michigan Natural Features Inventory using the internationally recognized heritage methodology.

Edge Habitat: The outermost band of habitat that surrounds a forest patch which has a species composition and structure that is significantly different from the interior of the patch. Edges can be a few to several hundred feet wide depending on environmental factors.

Endangered Species: Any plant or animal species defined through the Endangered Species Act of 1976 as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, and published in the Federal Register. A species facing imminent extinction or extirpation.

Forest: An ecosystem characterized by a more or less dense and extensive tree cover, often consisting of stands varying in characteristics such as species composition, structure, age class, and associated processes, and commonly including meadows, streams, fish, and wildlife. A plant community or predominantly trees and other woody vegetation growing more or less closely together, its related flora and fauna, and the values attributed to it.

Forest Patch: An area on the landscape differing in appearance from its surroundings. Patches may be due to natural (e.g. soil type) or anthropogenic (e.g. development) factors. Woodlots or residential development are examples of patches within a landscape.

Forest Road: A hard surface road, travel, or dirt road, or other route capable of travel by a 2-wheel drive, 4-wheel conventional vehicle designed for highway use, except an interstate, state, or county highway. Forest roads may be permanent or temporary, and include haul roads, logging trails and skid trails.

Forest Trail: A designated path or way capable of travel only by a vehicle less than 50 inches in width.

Forest Treatments: Activities taken to modify the composition or structure of a forest stand to meet management objectives; such activities include commercial thinning or clearcut harvests, prescribed burns, non-commercial mechanical removal of undesired species, regeneration or understory planting, and deliberate inaction.

Forest Type: A classification of forestland based on the species forming a plurality of live tree stocking.

Genetic Diversity: The differences in genetic composition within and among populations of a given species.

Geographic Information Systems or Science (GIS): A system designed for the collection, storage, and analysis of objects and phenomena where geographic location is an important characteristic. The study of this system is Geographic Information Science.

Goal: A concise statement which provides the means for the achievement of desired future conditions. Management goals may be short-term or long-term in nature. Long-term management goals are necessary to help achieve desired future conditions.

Guideline: A non-mandatory means by which goals are achieved.

Habitat: The place where an organism lives and its surrounding environment including its biotic and abiotic components. Habitat includes everything an organism needs to survive.

Habitat Type System: A classification that uses the floristic composition of plant community (understory species as well as trees) as an integrated indicator of those environmental factors that affect species reproduction, growth, competition, and therefore, community development.

High Conservation Value Areas (HCVAs): Areas (including ERAs) that have been recognized for their contribution to specific conservation objectives or attributes through a recognized DNR process such as legislation, administrative rule, Director's and Natural Resource Commission Orders but not including the Open House/Compartment Review process. Examples of recognized processes include Dedicated Natural, Wilderness or Wild Areas, Natural Rivers, and Kirtland's Warbler plan.

Hydric: Wet

Hypsithermal: The period of maximum climatic warmth during an interglacial period.

Interior Habitat: Habitat within the interior of a forest patch that is removed from edge habitat, that is necessary for the persistence of certain forest plant and animal species, by providing insulation from edge effects such as noise, wind, solar radiation, and increased predation.

Integrated Pest Management : The maintenance of destructive agents, including insects at tolerable levels, by the planned use of a variety of preventative, suppressive, or regulatory tactics and strategies that are ecologically and economically efficient and socially acceptable.

Karst: A type of terrain usually formed on carbonate rock (limestone and dolomite) where groundwater has dissolved the rock to enlarged openings and form a subsurface drainage system of caverns and sinkholes.

Lake Superior Syncline: A syncline is a geological term for a fold in the rocks of the Earth's crust in which the layers or beds dip inwards, thus forming a trough-like structure with a sag in the middle. The Lake Superior Syncline forms portion of the lake basin, extending from northern Wisconsin to the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan and into Ontario, Canada. The edges of the syncline are visible in the unique bedrock formations of the Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale.

Landscape: An area composed of adjacent and interacting ecosystems that are related because of geology, land forms, soils climate, biota, and human influences.

Landscape Scale: The appropriate spatial or temporal scale for planning, analysis, and improvement of management activities to achieve ecosystem management objectives.

Lacustrine: Found or formed in lakes.

Legacy Tree: A mature tree that is retained on a site after harvesting or natural disturbance to provide a biological legacy.

Mesic: Moderately moist.

Monitoring: The daily, seasonal, annual or longer-term collection and analysis of environmental and social data.

Monitoring Criteria: A measure by which the progress toward the attainment of sustainable management goals and desired future conditions are assessed.

Moraine: A mass of rock, gravel and soil deposited directly by a glacier.

Objective: A concise, time-specific statement of measurable planned results that respond to pre-established goals. Objectives are more specific and concrete than goals.

Old Growth: As defined by the Natural Resources Commission on 12/8/94, old-growth forests are those that approximate the structure, composition, and functions of native forests. These native conditions generally include more large trees, canopy layers, standing snags, native species, and dead organic material, involve more complex ecological processes, and undergo more gradual change than do young or intensively managed forests. Native forest conditions in Michigan also included ecologically important unforested openings, early successional stages, and extensive areas of catastrophic or frequent disturbance.

Poletimber: A live tree of commercial species at least 5.0 inches DBH, but smaller than sawtimber size. Harvested poletimber is sometimes referred to as cordwood.

Potential Old Growth: Areas inventoried and designated with a stand condition code of 8 within Operations Inventory (OI) for consideration as old growth.

Public: A group of people sharing a common interest or common characteristic: snowmobilers, or residents of a county.

Rare Species: Species that have a limited range, or a limited number of individuals. This could include species found in very low numbers throughout their range, or species that may have rather large local populations, but only a handful of populations total.

Removal Cut: Removal of overstory trees from a small understory trees so as to release the understory stand that are less than 20 years of age.

Resource assessment: The determination of the significance, importance, or value of a resource or a set of resources.

Riparian Area: The area of transition between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems in which the terrestrial ecosystem influences to aquatic and vice-versa.

Riparian Management Zone: The defined area consciously managed to protect functions and values of riparian areas. It may be a subset of, may equal, or may exceed beyond the riparian area.

Sapling: A live tree 1.0 to 5.0 inches DBH.

Sawtimber: A live tree of commercial species containing at least a 12-foot saw log or two noncontiguous saw logs 8 feet or longer and meeting regional specifications for freedom

from defect. Softwoods must be at least 9.0 inches DBH and hardwoods must be at least 11.0 inches DBH.

Seasonal Wetlands: Poorly drained, shallow depressions that may have standing water for a few weeks each year, but that are usually dry for much of the growing season.

Seed Tree Harvest: Most trees are removed from a stand, leaving a small number of designated seed trees.

Shelterwood Harvest: A cut designed to develop tree crowns in the remainder of the stand in preparation for another cut to be made in about ten years that will result in regeneration.

Silvicultural Criteria: The assemblage of abiotic and biotic factors (such as landform, soils, climate, life history characteristics of tree species, disease and insect pathogens) that when considered together govern establishment, growth, composition, health and quality of forests. In practical application, when silvicultural criteria are met they trigger a management action.

Site Index: A numerical indicator of site quality based on tree height at a specified age used as coordinates for interpolating site index from a specially prepared set of graphed curves for a given species of tree.

Spatial Scale: The geographical size of a community, ecosystem, or study. Spatial scale can range from a microsite such as an underside of a leaf on the forest floor, to a forest, to a larger landscape. Operationally, spatial scale refers to the geographic extent at which certain processes operate within the environment. This could be the scale at which nutrients recycle in a wetland to the patterns of deer migration in the Upper Peninsula.

Special Concern Species: Species that have a limited range, or a limited number of individuals so much so they are on the verge of becoming threatened or endangered.

Species: A group of individuals that can interbreed successfully with one another, but not with members of other groups. Plants and animals are identified as belonging to a given species based on similar morphological, genetic, and biochemical characteristics.

Special Conservation Areas (SCAs): Special Conservation Areas are areas of State Forest land that have had one or more conservation objectives, interests, or elements identified. The type and strength of recognition will vary depending on the process used to identify the conservation value. Some SCA designations will have the force of law, (such as areas identified in Land Use Orders of the Director), some will be by cooperative agreement (such as National Natural Landmarks with the National Park Service), some will be by department process or agreement (such as deer yards, POG, and riparian buffers), and some will be identified by an external group or organization (such as Audubon's Important Bird Areas).

Species Diversity: The richness and variety of native species in an area. It includes not only the number of species in the area, but also their relative abundance and spatial distribution. Species richness is one component of species diversity, but not the only determinant.

Soil Detritus: Small pieces of dead and decomposing plants and animal that add organic matter, nutrients and structure to the organic surface horizon of soils.

Stakeholder: Individuals or groups impacted by and/or having an interest in the management of Michigan's natural resources and DNR programs. State, tribal, and local government agencies, academic institutions, the scientific community, nongovernmental entities including environmental, agricultural, and conservation organizations, trade groups, commercial interests, and private landowners and citizens.

Standard: A standard is a mandatory means by which goals are achieved. The intended purpose for standards is to reference procedures and laws that provide existing direction for the achievement of goals

Stand Condition 8: One of many codes used in DNR Operations Inventory to describe the condition of a stand. Prior to the 2008 year of entry, the code stand condition 8 was used to designate forest areas as potential old growth. As of the 2008 year of entry, this designation has been changed to encompass other biodiversity values and includes areas designated as Special Conservation Areas (of which old growth is a component), High Conservation Value Areas, and Ecological Reference Areas.

Statewide Council (SWC): A team composed of all the DNR Division chiefs who meet periodically to plan and discuss policy, coordination, cooperation, and implementation of Department programs.

Succession: The natural change in vegetation over time in the absence of disturbance or the artificial change in vegetation due to natural or human-caused disturbance.

Sustainable/Sustainability: Maintenance of healthy, functioning ecosystems capable of providing goods, services, and processes upon which human welfare ultimately depends. Also, implied is the idea that the actions of the current generation will not diminish the resources and opportunities available to future generations.

Temporal scale: The time required to complete a study, a life history event or ecological process. Temporal scale can vary from a few seconds for biochemical reactions to thousands of years for ecosystem development. Operationally, temporal scale refers to the time extent certain processes operate in the environment. (The apparent spatial-operational scale of an ecological process will often change as the temporal-observational scale changes in the same process).

Threatened species: A plant or animal species likely to become endangered throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the foreseeable future.

Xeric: Dry or desert-like.